

# Medical Officer's Report for 1909.

To the Chairman and Members  
OF THE  
*ST. AUSTELL*  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

---

ST. AUSTELL,

January, 1910.

GENTLEMEN,

Again the duty devolves on me to make an Annual Report to you of the sanitary condition of the District and a Summary of the work done during the year, according to instructions laid down by the Local Government Board. As time goes, additional work is occurring. When I look back at the time when I first was appointed, thirty years ago, I can see a great increase in the work during that time, and am please to note the general condition has been improved. Owing to the district being a small one, and a small increase in the rateable value, and not much space or suitable sites for erecting villas or small dwellings, it keeps all improvements, which one would like to see, almost at a standstill.

### *Notifiable Diseases.*

Only four have been notified to me during the year—one of diptheria, one of scarlet fever, and two of erysipelas. There was no fatality. The scarlet fever was imported, but prompt action was taken, and the disease did not further spread.

### *Non-notifiable Diseases.*

Measles occurred in the commencement of the year. The cases were numerous, and for a time it was epidemic. The infant part of the Council School was closed, and also the Church Schools. It was chiefly in very young children; there being only one fatality, and that was from one of the after effects of the Measles. The cases were mild, and the greatest difficulty was in preventing the affected children mixing with healthy ones; and, in a great many houses, there is no means of isolation, and I am afraid that a great number of parents are very indifferent about it.

Phthisis does not appear to diminish in the district: during the past year there have been ten deaths from tubercular diseases; eleven in 1908 and nine in 1907. This means a death rate of 29 per 1,000 inhabitants, which is rather high.



Bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy caused fourteen deaths; in 1908 there were thirteen, and in 1907 only seven

Heart-disease occurred in aged persons—last year there were nineteen fatalities; in 1908 there were ten, and in 1907 there were fourteen. Cancer proved fatal in four instances during the past year; one during 1908 and five during 1907.

### *General Sanitary Work.*

The Water Supply of the district during the year has been fairly good. During summer months it had to be shut off at night. The Council are taking every possible step to augment the supply. At the Brake they tried for another source, but owing to its being obtainable only for twenty-one years, and also the enormous expense of lifting it to the reservoir, they were compelled to abandon the scheme. At present they are driving levels and cross levels at Carne Stents, adjoining the present source, which they hope will prove satisfactory. The water mains have been extended in several parts of the district. New Water Mains have been laid where old ones have become encrusted.

The Drainage has been improved and extended, and old drains have been taken up, re-laid, and cemented. In several instances they were found defective, the joints not being properly made. A new Sewer was laid at Moorland Road.

There were several Nuisances abated. At South Street five houses were demolished, and new ones are being erected; the road widened, which will be a great improvement to the entrance to that part of the town. Three houses at Undertown were renovated and made fit for occupation. Improvements were also made at Eastbourne Road—the road being widened, Tregonissey Road, Palace Road, Moorland Road, High Cross Street, and Bodmin Road; and, where practicable, foot-paths have been laid. The Fair Park has been improved.

The Dairies and Cow Sheds have been visited. The Dairies, although kept much cleaner, are in some instances not in suitable places.

There are no Slaughter Houses in the district at present.

The Factories have been visited, and we found them greatly improved. One was overcrowded, but it had immediate attention—an additional room having been procured. They have been regularly whitewashed, and we have seen that the Closet accommodation has been sufficient and kept clean.

The Bakehouses have also been visited, and found satisfactory, many being regularly whitewashed, and there is no sleeping accommodation over them. The Sanitary arrangements have had our attention.

There is one Ice Cream Establishment which requires frequent visits. Latterly the house and surroundings have been kept better, and the premises altogether are more sanitary.





The Council Employees have carried out the Scavenging in a satisfactory manner. The refuse removed some distance from the town, where it is burnt when practicable.

The Public Urinals at the Market Hill have not been as yet sanctioned, but I hope they will be in the coming year, as they are much wanted in that part of the district.

The Sanitary work of the district has been much improved, and although no work of magnitude has been accomplished, still a good deal of useful work has been carried out, and I hope to call your attention to other sanitary improvements, which I have no doubt will require careful consideration from you, as in the past.

The Pig Market is still held in the same place. Some steps should be taken to have it moved to a more suitable spot, as the present position I consider is not suitable for a Market.

A great deal of the Council's time and attention has been taken up by the Public Health Amendment Acts of 1907; several Sections have been adopted and confirmed by the Local Government Board, and they will no doubt prove of great assistance in carrying out sanitary arrangements.

There is only one Registered Lodging House in the district, most of the tramps finding their way to the Workhouse.

I now append the Birth and Death Rates since 1880.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate.	Death Rate. (Omitting the Union)
1880	33·1	22	16·4
1881	26·6	18·1	10·9
1882	33·7	25·9	19
1883	26·2	24·2	17·8
1884	30·9	18·7	12·6
1885	27·07	27·3	21·6
1886	24·2	23·4	13·2
1887	25·1	25·9	19·8
1888	22·8	18·4	12·6
1889	23·4	15·6	11·8
1890	19·2	24·6	18·4
1891	25·3	22·1	15·7
1892	23·8	20·1	16
1893	26·7	23·8	18·4
1894	28·6	20·1	13·9
1895	25·02	18·9	13
1896	23·8	16·6	11
1897	22·1	16·6	11·3
1898	20·9	23·2	17·5



Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate.	Death Rate. (Omitting the Union)
1899	27·3	27·03	20·8
1900	19·5	22·1	17·3
1901	18·5	21·2	11·5
1902	26·3	16·07	11·5
1903	19·4	17·3	12·8
1904	18·8	20·6	15
1905	20	16·7	11·2
1906	21·8	20·3	14·7
1907	23·6	26·9	17·2
1908	25·7	18·5	12·5
1909	16·7	19·7	14·7

The Birth Rate for the district has been the lowest for the past thirty years, the rate being 16·7. The average for the past ten years was 22·9; this includes the Workhouse, where seventeen Births occurred—the highest for the past ten years, the average being ten. Omitting this the Birth Rate for the town would have been 12·2.

The Death Rate is more than the Birth Rate, being 19·7, which includes the Workhouse. It is below the average for past ten years; the average being 20·7. The number of Deaths in the Workhouse was nineteen, the average for ten years previous being twenty-three. Omitting the Workhouse fatalities the Death Rate for the town would be 14·7.

In children under one year of age there were eight, giving a Death Rate of 2·3 per thousand inhabitants, which is below the average for the previous ten years, the average being twelve; and 142 per thousand Births registered, which is also below the average for ten years previously, the average being 157. In children under one year of age there was one fatality in the Workhouse, the average being two for the ten years previous. Omitting it, the Death Rate for the town in infants was 2·1. The foregoing are given in tables one and two.

Table three give the number of cases notified during the last year—only four, with no fatality; excepting 1903 this is the lowest number of cases notified in one year since the Act came into force in 1890.

From Non-notifiable Diseases there was one fatality from measles.

Table four gives the Mortality from all Diseases during the year, which have been separately dealt with in the commencement of this report.

Table five shows the Mortality in infants, and has already been referred to; there were only eight deaths compared with twenty-one for the previous year.





Table six refers to the Factories, Workshops, Laundries, and Home Workers—a copy of which has been sent to the Home Secretary. This is almost identical with the previous year, there being no new Factories or Workshops erected. There are no Home Workers that we can discover.

There is also a Report for the County Council, one copy having been ordered to be sent to our Council, with forms attached which have been filled in.

The District, as far as I am aware, is in a healthy condition. One or two cases of measles have been imported, but every precaution is being taken to prevent its further extending. You will see from the several tables that the Death Rate is satisfactory; it is not the lowest, and depends to a great extent on the severity of the winter months, the greatest mortality being in aged people. There is a great difference at present in the Death Rate to what it was twenty years ago. It reaching then 24-25, and even 27 per 1,000 inhabitants. This I attribute in some extent to the improved sanitary condition of the district. I hope the improvement will still continue, and the Council, as in the past, will continue to give their attention and consideration to sanitary matters, and no town can be healthy without a pure and constant supply of water, and a good system of drainage: There are other improvements which I hope will claim your attention during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM MASON,

M.O.H.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30125546>

# Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report 1909.

## To the Chairman and Members OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ST. AUSTELL.

---

GENTLEMEN,

In giving my Annual Report and Summary of Sanitary work carried out during the year, I am pleased to inform you that the Sanitation of the Town is in a satisfactory condition.

### *Summary of Sanitary Work for the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1909.*

Accumulation of offensive matter removed	...	...	2
House drains choked and remedied	...	...	11
Foul closets cleaned	...	...	4
New house drains in lieu of old	...	...	7
House Drains tested	...	...	6
New Water Closets	...	...	5
Sanitary Inspection by request	...	...	9
do. do. of Schools	...	...	4
do. do. of Railway Premises	...	...	4
Houses fumigated	...	...	2
Houses limewashed and cleaned	...	...	3
Pigs removed	...	...	0
Cesspits	...	...	0
Overcrowding abated	...	...	0
Notice served to remedy defects	...	...	3
Offensive trades	...	...	1
Legal proceedings	...	...	0
Reports to Council	...	...	11

During the year the District has been almost free from infectious diseases, and when requested by the Medical Officer, disinfectants have been supplied.

### *Factory and Workshop Act.*

The Workshops in the District have been inspected, a few irregularities were found, but all were rectified.





### *Bakehouses.*

These have been periodically inspected and found satisfactory.

### *Ice Cream Trade.*

There is one manufacturer of Ice Cream in the District, everything is done to ensure the purity of the Ice Cream.

### *Slaughter Houses.*

No Slaughter House in the District.

### *Dairies, Milkshops, and Cowsheds.*

The Medical Officer and myself periodically inspected the Dairies, Milkshops, and Cowsheds.

The Dairies and Milkshops were clean, still some of the rooms used as dairies are not suitable.

There has been a little improvement in the condition of the cowsheds, still there are some not up to the standard one would like to see them.

The cowkeepers seem regardless of ventilation, lighting, and air space, and in some cases cleanliness. I hope the time is not far distant when all cowkeepers will see the necessity for cleanliness, ventilation, and air space.

The requests for the examination and inspection of premises and drains were not numerous, eight drains tested by the Asphyxiator were found defective, in four cases new drains were laid. The work required to remedy the defects in the other cases were carried out.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. SAMBLE.

